



The tri-Service charity

Formally established in 1891

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

(Until 8 September 2022)

IMPACT STATEMENT

4th Edition June 2023



Objective and History

Our charity started providing alcohol-free homely and welcoming centres for soldiers in 1857, when barrack provision was somewhat wanting. Sailors were first welcomed in 1902 and by 1917 there were 105 'Institutes' worldwide. Following the Great War the number of those in uniform needing such facilities dwindled as the Armed Forces shrank in size. Airmen were welcomed in 1931. The charity's support to Service personnel increased during the Second World War before settling back as peace fell on Europe and the Far East and the numbers in uniform again started to decline. Lieutenant Colonel Walker's enlightened founding precept from 1881 appears further on. In its modernised form it remains as true today as it did then:

CESSAC believes that Armed Forces personnel and their dependants should have access to modern, homely facilities that complement other provision and support their welfare needs.

CESSAC Today

CESSAC is a member of Cobseo (the Confederation of Service Charities) and a signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant. It mainly operates welcoming alcohol-free all-ranks cafés in establishments under MoD's Charter with the Council of Voluntary Welfare Work (CVWW), sponsored by the Army's Personnel Directorate on behalf of all 3 Services. Accordingly, the operations and primary trading of CVWW members are covered explicitly in various JSPs – 770 (Welfare), 456 Volume 4 (Catering) & 464 Part 2 (Accommodation).

CESSAC continues to open, close and maintain centres to meet the changing demands of the Armed Forces, each tailored to local circumstances. CESSAC seeks to employ the families of Service personnel in its centres wherever possible and has a Bronze award under the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. The organisation currently operates in nine places across the UK, the Falklands & Cyprus, where it is happy to enjoy the support of the respective local Commanders.

CESSAC Chairman

Rear Admiral
Al Rymer



I am delighted that CESSAC has such a dedicated group of staff and Trustees determined to provide excellent facilities and service to Service personnel and their families. Our team works hand in hand with Commanding Officers and military welfare services to deliver centres with first class, inexpensive, homely catering and ensure a warm welcome for all.

Our charity has a very long and proud history of responding to the changing demands of the Services. We maintain flexibility to open or close CESSAC centres with their cafés to meet ever changing Services footprint. Whilst providing the centres is our primary aim, we also work hard to meet our other aims, including: providing grants & equipment to support the efficiency of Service personnel, and supporting the religious and charitable

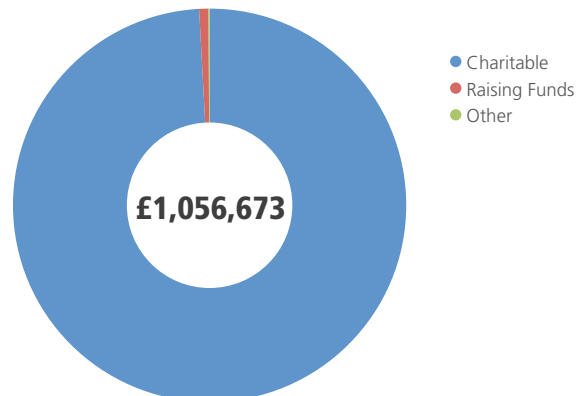
work of the C of E in the Armed Forces.

We believe that it is essential to listen to the requirements of Unit Commanders, their Service communities, and to other Service charities and welfare providers. By doing this we aim to tailor our facilities and services to the local needs and expectations of current and potential users. While always keen to serve as many beneficiaries as possible, we pay particular attention to supporting junior personnel and their dependants, because they may have fewer alternatives to official messing and catering facilities. So, please do help us to improve our charitable work for you by: using our centres; encouraging colleagues to discover CESSAC, and by talking to us about your requirements, so that we can add something different to your establishments and support your welfare needs.

Charitable Income and Expenditure

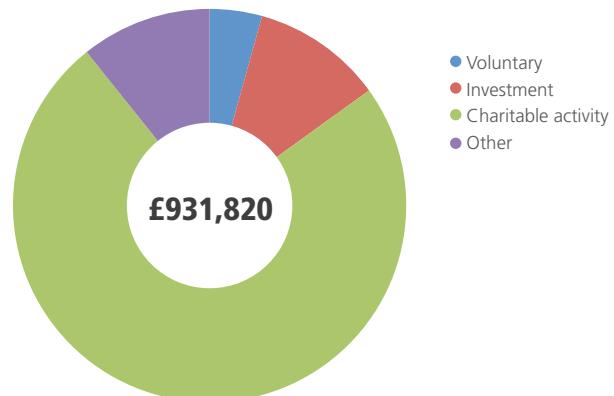
CESSAC Expenditure 2022

This first graph illustrates that almost all CESSAC's expenditure is charitable, thanks to: the voluntary nature of the Governance (Council & Welfare Amenity Committee members); and very small overheads through a taut management structure and the efficiencies from sharing the Office with the Housing Association. These outgoings include modernising café facilities and making them more inviting.



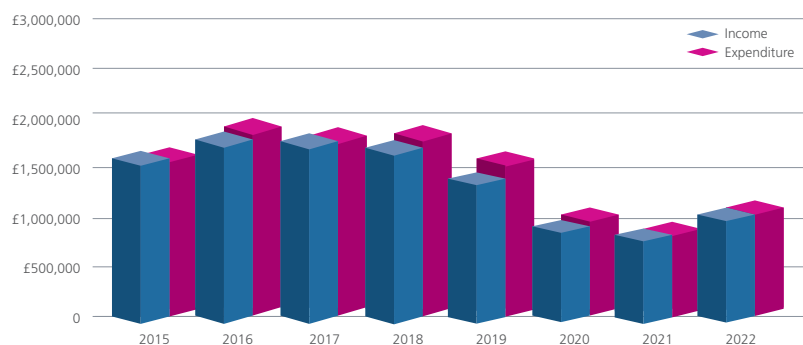
CESSAC Income 2022

This second graph shows that the prices charged to beneficiaries (charitable activity) are subsidised by income from elsewhere. Comparing the 2, and illustrated in the 3rd graph below, shows CESSAC's Expenditure has exceeded its Income for several years. This is possible because the invested reserves have generally beaten inflation in value, enabling the charitable activity to be further subsidised from there (rather than income). Most of the voluntary income is improvement grants.



CESSAC Income and Expenditure 2015-2022

All the figures on this page can be downloaded from the Charity Commission's website. Centre usage in 2023 continues to move back towards pre-pandemic levels. This is being reflected in improved income and expenditure.



The focus of these graphs is income and expenditure, which CESSAC is able to maintain having invested its reserves in accordance with Charity Commission guidance. Reserves are essential for a well-run organisation, not least to survive events like the pandemic (note the effect on 2020 & 2021), the restrictions for which reduced the charitable income more than expenditure. They are used as a means to generate income while aiming to maintain their real value

Although CESSAC seeks to be self-sustaining and does not actively fundraise, it aims to minimise outlay by working with the local command to improve facilities – some recent results are reflected under each centre. Grants have also been received e.g. from ACEST and the Army Central Fund. CESSAC is also happy to accept donations and legacies! An online donation facility is available, registered for gift aid, via CESSAC's website page (rear cover) to supplement collection boxes.

CESSAC Centres

Area Manager Cyprus

Mr Shane Baker

Tel: (357) 99993212, e-mail: shane.baker@cessaha.co.uk

British Forces Cyprus



Episkopi Station

– home to the Headquarters of Commander British Forces' Cyprus and a Resident Infantry Battalion. CESSAC's café in the Episkopi Centre in 'Dodge City' is scheduled for modernisation in 2023.

CONTACT TEL (00357) 25211325

Nicosia

– until the pandemic struck, CESSAC operated a shop and internet café for UK's significant contribution to the UN here. It is hoped to re-open in a new location within the Community Centre of the British Contingent once building work is complete.

CONTACT while closed see Area Manager.



RAF Akrotiri

– this is an extremely busy Permanent Joint Operating Base supporting a number of operations. Lady Lampson's internet café and shop opposite the gym received a successful makeover in 2022. CESSAC's mobile catering trailer for all British Forces Cyprus is based here and deployed as requested to support events.

CONTACT TEL (00357) 25275092



CESSAC's mobile catering trailer



© Geno Price 2015



Dhekelia Station

– this shop and café has a beautiful beach-side location, sunbeds, umbrellas and an outside play area. It is kept busy by the Resident Infantry Battalion and station staff. In 2022 the café was expanded into what had been part of the shop here.

CONTACT TEL (00357) 24723214

Main contact - Director of Operations
Mrs Sarah Gittins (rear cover)

United Kingdom & the Falklands

Garrison Community Hub, Aldershot

– the 'home of the British Army'. CESSAC has been here since May 2022 and new furniture is arriving in 2023.

CONTACT Tel: 02392 829319 opt 2
(i.e. c/o Head Office).
aldershot@cessaha.co.uk



Blandford Camp, Dorset

– the Rendezvous Café in Steele Block principally serves the Royal School of Signals and the Defence School of Communications and Information Systems. The cafe received a thorough refurbishment in 2022 and a new coffee machine in 2023.

CONTACT Tel: 01258 450853
blandford@cessaha.co.uk

Colchester Garrison, Essex

– this café serves the Community Centre for the family quarters of 16 Air Assault Brigade. It received new furniture in 2022 and a new coffee machine in 2023.

CONTACT Tel: 01206 615510
cessac.colchester@gmail.com



Woodbridge, Suffolk

– Poppies Coffee Lounge serves the Barnsdale Community Centre of Rock Barracks. This is home to 23 Parachute Engineers & 28 RE. The café was refurbished in 2022 and a new coffee machine is planned for summer 2023.

CONTACT Tel: 01394 461101
woodbridge@cessaha.co.uk

CESSAC Centres

United Kingdom and Falklands continued

Mount Pleasant Complex, Falklands

– the Oasis café is next to St Cuthbert's Chapel on the longest corridor in the world and in one of the remotest places imaginable. It is an essential facility for members of all 3 Services in the British Forces South Atlantic Islands. It provides a lifeline, particularly for the many unaccompanied personnel who deploy there for 4 months, but also for the intrepid

families who actually accompany their partners (both groups often provide volunteer and paid staff). The welfare fund bought a new coffee machine in 2022

CONTACT

Tel: 005007 5321
cessac.fi@gmail.com



RAF Cosford, Shropshire

– Is home to many RAF and other units including much of the Defence College of Technical Training. CESSAC is investigating taking over the community café there.

Beneficial Usage of CESSAC Centres

2022	Centre	Average daily use by beneficiaries	Days open per week	Average weekly usage
Falklands	Mt Pleasant	69	7	485
UK	Aldershot	62	4	248
	Blandford	57	5	283
	Colchester	50	5	250
	Woodbridge	29	4	116
	Episkopi	66	7	461
Cyprus	Akrotiri	105	7	736
	Nicosia	Closed for repairs by MoD		
	Dhekelia	41	7	287
Total		479		2,865

This table provides the estimated average daily usage of each centre by beneficiaries in 2022. These illustrate the scale of activity at each location, which is still moving back towards pre-pandemic levels.

CESSAC President

Vice Admiral
Sir David Steel
KBE DL



After a career spanning 36 years in the Royal Navy, I received my first taste of living abroad when I became Governor of Gibraltar and Commander-in-Chief in June 2020 – at the height of the Covid pandemic. I soon realised that life in the sun for Armed Forces personnel can be glorious, but it can also be lonely, especially if one is single, or the partner of a Service man or woman.

While Gibraltar does not benefit from a CESSAC operation, I am always reminded just how important such facilities are, not just in the United Kingdom but in other sun-filled places (and those not so warm!) around the world. The importance attached by those in uniform and their families to alcohol-free welfare facilities is huge. Such places provide somewhere to relax, to be with friends, and to share support when that is required. Some of CESSAC's centres are larger than others, and not all of them are in remote locations. All of them, however, deliver something which would not be attractive to profit-led commercial organisations.

As a charity, together with its related sheltered housing association operation, CESSAC is always ready to meet the needs of serving Armed Forces personnel their families, and our veterans and their families. While not perhaps as well known as the larger Service charities, CESSAC plays a vital role, recognised by those establishments who already enjoy one of our facilities. I would like also to highlight that those who work for CESSAC demonstrate a commitment and dedication to those in uniform and their families which is truly commendable.

The Charity's facilities operate alongside those provided under Defence contractual arrangements, being complementary not in competition. We rely on the Unit Commanders and their welfare staff to identify the need and to understand how their establishments might benefit from the type of facility that CESSAC offers. I have seen the importance of these facilities and continue to urge Commanders and their staff to recognise the value of CESSAC and what it can do to help underpin the morale of those in uniform and their families.



The Future

CESSAC will continue to work with Service commands and with the Services' charity sector to identify opportunities, which complement other provision, to enhance the access of members of HM Armed Forces and their dependants to such facilities. It does this through membership of CVWW and Cobseo, working with WRVS where appropriate, attendance at events and engagement with Service Chaplains. However, anyone identifying a potential establishment that might benefit from a CESSAC centre is invited to contact the Chief Executive Officer or the Director of Operations.

CESSAC's Founding Precept

(circa 1881
– attributed to Lt Col
John Walker RA)

"That if the Church of England is in any way, as she claims to be, the Church of the Nation, then she ought to provide for the Nation's soldiers, places where they can resort and find rest and healthy recreation and where they can associate on terms of friendly intercourse not only with one another but with chaplains, officers and others who are willing to make their acquaintance. That with this object, the Church, holding in respect the convictions and opinions of

those who cannot conscientiously accept her creeds and formulae and anxiously desiring to include all and exclude none, throws open the doors of these clubs freely to all soldiers without enquiry as to their religious denomination, and in order this feeling of freedom may be practical, she not only asks for no religious profession from those who use them, but insists that there should be no solicitation or interference whatever on religious matters".

President

Vice Admiral Sir David Steel KBE DL



Vice Presidents

Naval The Venerable A Hillier QHC Royal Navy, Chaplain of the Fleet

Army The Reverend M Parker QHC CF, Chaplain General

RAF The Venerable Dr (Air Vice-Marshal) G L Legood MBE QHC RAF, Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF
Cyprus Major General R J Thomson CBE DSO

Council of CESSAC

Rear Admiral A R Rymer

Colonel C E H Ackroyd TD RD DL

Mr I H Currie FCA

Mr D Foster FCA

Ms G Grindell MSc

Mr S Rice

Lieutenant Colonel D Ruffle RE

Commander S J Snowball, Royal Navy

Chairman

Vice Chair

Chair Housing Committee

Chair Welfare Amenities Committee

Welfare Amenities Committee (WAC)

Commander D Wright, Royal Navy

Former Warrant Officer A Davies RE

Registered Office and Key Staff

1 Shakespeare Terrace, 126 High Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2RH

Tel: (023) 928 29319 option 2

Chief Executive Officer

Commander Patrick Keefe, Royal Navy

patrick.keefe@cessaha.co.uk

Tel: 023 928 90911

Director of Operations

Mrs Sarah Gittins

sarah.gittins@cessaha.co.uk

Tel: 07720 230492

Head Office Manager

Mrs Marika Stivanello

marika.stivanello@cessaha.co.uk

Tel: 023 928 90910

Cyprus Office Manager

Ms Lisa Baker

lisa.baker@cessaha.co.uk

Tel: 00357 252 75150

Website

The charity shares the housing association's website, so both can be found at www.cessaha.co.uk and for CESSAC click the tab for CESSAC or annual reports etc.



CESSA Housing Association & Greenwich Hospital Sheltered Housing

In the early 1970s CESSAC's Council decided to expand its aims to cover sheltered housing for elderly ex-Service personnel and/or their spouses, partners etc. This enabled it to create the CESSA Housing Association Ltd (CESSA HA), a charitable Registered Provider. CESSA HA currently owns 191 flats in 5 sheltered schemes in the Portsmouth area for such people over 60 years of age. CESSAC also manages a further 91 flats owned by Greenwich Hospital in Southsea, Saltash and Greenwich for retired seafarers and/or their spouses. Further details about all the housing, including application forms, are available on the website or from Head Office (see details above).